HIS MAIESTIES MOST GRACIOUS DECLARATION,

Left by Him on His Table, at *Hampton-Court*, 11. *Novemb.* 1647.

And directed to be communicated to the Speaker of the House of Lords *pro tempore*, and to be communicated unto the Lords and Commons in Parl. of *England*, at *Westm.* and the Commis. of the Parl. of *Scotland*, & to his other Subjects, of what degree, condition, or calling whatsoever.

Together with a true Relation of His Majesties private departure, and the Houses Proceedings and Resolutions therepon.

Printed for *Richard Royston*, at the Angel in Ivie-lane.
M DC XLVII.

HIS MAIESTIES MOST GRAGIOVS DECLARATION,

Left by him on his Table at Hampton-Court, 11. *Novemb.* 1647. *&c.*

LIberty being that which in all times hath been, but eſpecially now is the common theame and deſire of all men; common Reaſon ſhews, that Kings leſſe then any ſhould endure captivity. And yet, I call God and the world to witneſs, with what patience I have endured a te-

dious reſtraint: which ſo long as I had any hopes that this ſort of my ſuffering might conduce to the peace of my Kingdoms, or the hindring of more effuſion of blood, I did willingly undergoe: but now finding by too certaine proofs, that this my continued patience would not onely turn to my perſonal ruine, but likewiſe be of much more prejudice, then furtherance to the publique good; I thought I was bound as well by Naturall, as Politicall obligations, to ſeek my ſafety, by retiring my ſelf, for ſome time, from the publique view both of my friends and enemies: And I appeale to all indifferent men, to judge, if I have not juſt cauſe to free my ſelfe from the hands of thoſe, who change their principles with their condition; and who are not aſhamed openly to intend the deſtruction of the Nobility, by taking away their Negative Voice; and with

whom, the Levellers doctrine, is rather countenanced then puniſhed: And as for their intentions to my Perſon, their changing, & putting more ſtrict Guards upon me, with the diſcharging moſt of all thoſe ſervants of mine, who formerly they willingly admitted to wait upon me, does ſufficiently declare. Nor would I have this my retirement miſ-interpreted; for I ſhall earneſtly and unceſſantly endeavour the ſetling of a ſafe and well-grounded Peace, where ever I am or ſhall be; and that (as much as may be) without the effuſion of more Chriſtian blood: for which how many times have I deſired, preſt to be heard, and yet no eare given to me? And can any reaſonable man think, that (according to the ordinary courſe of affaires) there *can be a ſetled Peace without it? Or that God will bleſſe thoſe, who refuſe to heare their owne King? Surely no. Nay I muſt*

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farther adde, that (beſides what concernes my ſelfe) unleſſe all other chiefe intereſts, have not onely a hearing, but likewiſe juſt ſatisfaction given unto them, (to wit, the Presbyterians, Independents, Army, thoſe who have adhered to me, and even the Scots) I ſay there cannot (I ſpeak not of Miracles, it being in my opinion, a ſinfull preſumption, in ſuch caſes, to expect or truſt to them) be a ſafe or laſting Peace.

Now as I cannot deny, but that my perſonall ſecurity is the urgent cauſe of this my retirement; ſo I take God to witneſſe, that the publike Peace is no leſſe before my eyes: and I can find no better way to expreſſe this my profeſsion (I know not what a wiſer man may do) then by deſiring and urging that all chief Intereſts may be heard, to the end each may have juſt ſatisfaction: As for example, the Army, (for the reſt, though neceſſary, yet I ſuppoſe are not

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difficult to content) ought (in my judgment) to enjoy the liberty of their conſciences, have an Act of Oblivion or Indempnity (which ſhould extend to all the reſt of my Subjects) and that all their Arreares ſhould be ſpeedily and duly paid; which I will undertake to do, ſo I may be heard, and that I be not hindred from uſing ſuch lawfull and honeſt meanes as I ſhall chuſe. To conclude, let me be heard with Freedome, Honor and Safety, and I ſhall inſtantly breake through this Cloud of Retirement, and ſhew my ſelfe really to be *Pater Patriæ.*

For the Speaker of the Lords pro tempore, *to be communicated unto the Lords & Commons in Parliament of England, at Weſtminſter, and to the Commiſſioners of the Parliament of Scotland; and to all my other Subjects, of what Degree, Condition, or Calling whatſoever.*

A true Relation of His Majesties private departure from Hampton-Court, *the* 11. *of* November, *about* 5. *of the Clock in the Afternoon.*

Novemb. 12. 1647.

THis morning Sir *John Cook* and Master *Crew*, two of the Commissioners, came to the House, and delivered the particulars thus: Yesterday in the afternoone, His Majesty shut himselfe up in his Chamber, and commanded that no body should come to him: When it grew dusk, he called for a Candle, and afterwards for Snuffers; he came not out to Prayers, as he was accustomed; which after some time, bred a mistrust: Then one of the Commissioners knocked at his Chamber door, & no answer being made, went in, and found no body there, the back-door open, & His Majesties Cloak lying in the midst of the roome on the floore, which for the present caused some fear, that somewhat had been attempted on His Person; but looking farther, found three Letters upon the Table, written with His Majesties own Hand, which argued that he was well. The first was the Declaration or Remonstrance, which you have heard before.

The second Letter was to my Lord *Montague*, and the rest of the Commissioners, to give them thanks for their civilities to him, since his comming to Hampton-Court.

The third, to Col: *Whaley* of thanks likewise for his civilities, for he had that morning given charge to the Guards and others to have a care of His Majesty, having likewise had some intimation of an intended attempt that day upon His Majesties Person.

A fourth Letter was found upon His Majesties Table, subscribed *For His Majesty*, without any name to it more then two Letters. In this Letter His Majesty was earnestly beseeched to retire to some place of privacy for a time, and *Broad-street* in *London* was proposed as a place of security; for that the Levellers, or some of that faction, had an intent speedily to murder His Majesty, and that Master *Peters* had lately expressed as much, saying, *he valued the King no more then a dead dog, &c.*

The Commissioners could make no probable conjecture as then, whither His Majesty should be gone; the Scotch Commissioners had been there the day before, but were yesterday come for

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London, and from thence are gone towards *Scotland*. Hereupon the House Ordered a Committee, to examine the whole busines, and the neglect of those that guarded him; and likewise ordered a stop of all the Ports, and a search to be made in some parts of *London* for him.

Novemb. 13.

THis day the House of Com. sate till 7. at night. Col: *Whaley* was called into the House, and examined, he confessed he had received a Letter from Lieutenant Gen: *Cromwell* the day before, which he produced, and was read, to this effect;

Deare Cos. WHALEY, *There are rumors abroad of some intended attempt on His Majesties Person, therefore I pray have a care of your Guards; for if any such thing should be done, it would be accounted a most horrid act, &c.* Yours.

Col: *Rainsborough* was present in the House, and made some hot expressions against *Cromwell* and *Ireton* both, he supposed the King might still be in some part of *Hampton-Court*, (being a great house) there to be ready to act some great designe, (they are his owne words.) Thereupon the house was ordered to be strictly searched.

Col: *Rainsborough* also told the House what danger there might be in the *Rendevouz's*, there being no money ready to pay the Soldiers: whereupon the House had debate, about deferring thereof, but could not, in regard the soldiers were upon their march.

Afterwards the House voted it high Treason, and losse of life and estate, for any person to harbour His Majesty: but in this the House was divided, 50. Members who were for the Negative staid within, and 70. for the Affirmative went forth.

Ordered likewise that the E. of *Northumberland* have a care of the Duke of *York*, lest he be conveyed away too.

To conclude, the House at their rising on Saterday night late had no information where His Majesty was, but many did beleeve he would appeare at the Rendevouz, which holds on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday next.

THE END.